

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 05958 261638Z
ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, BENC, SP
SUBJECT: MADRID PLANNING COMMISSION TURNS DOWN PROPOSED
SITE FOR SECOND AIRPORT

1. SPANISH PRESS MAY 24 REPORTED THAT OFFICIALS OF
COPLACO (MADRID METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING COMMISSION)
HELD PRESS CONFERENCE DAY BEFORE AT WHICH THEY ANNOUNCED
INITIAL OPPOSITION TO STUDY BY SUBSECRETARIAT OF CIVIL
AVIATION (SCA)(MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS)
ON SITE FOR SECOND MADRID AIRPORT. SCA STUDY, WHICH HAS
BEEN IN MILL SINCE 1975, RECOMMENDED SITES IN VILLAGES OF
FUENTE EL SAZ, BRUNETE, ILLESCAS AND NAVALCARNERO, WITH
LATTER VILLAGE FAVORED.

2. ACCORDING TO "ALTERNATIVE AIRPORT SYSTEMS IN THE
MADRID AREA" STUDY, NEW AIRPORT AT NAVALCARNERO WOULD
OCCUPY 5,000 HECTARES AND COST BTWEEN 20,000 AND 25,000
MILLION PESETAS (\$250-315 MILLION). ALTHOUGH EXTENSIVE
SCA STUDY REPORTEDLY INCLUDES ANALYSIS OF ALL FACTORS
ASSOCIATED WITH NEW AIRPORT, SUCH AS POPULATION SHIFTS AND
TRANSPORT MEANS, COPLACO CRITISIZED RESULTS ON THREE MAIN
POINTS: METHODOLOGY-INSUFFICIENT ATTENTION TO EXISTING
CRITERIA ON URBANIZATION; TECHNICAL-ERRORS IN DATA ON
SIZE OF POPULATION AND NEED FOR SECOND AIRPORT (STATEMENT
WAS MADE THAT BARAJAS AIRPORT IS UNDERUTILIZED; BASIC-SUCH
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A DECISION IS OF SUCH IMPORTANCE THAT COMPLETE POLITICAL
AND SOCIAL AGREEMENT MUST BE REACHED BEFORE PROCEEDING.

3. AS EXPLAINED BY COPLACO SPOKESMEN FERNANDO TERAN AND
ELIAS CRUZ, LOCATING SECOND LARGE AIRPORT AT NAVALCARNERO
WOULD FURTHER CENTRALIZE SURROUNDING AREAS ACTIVITIES ON
MADRID AND WOULD DENY POSSIBILITY FOR HAVING LOCAL

AIRPORTS. SUGGESTION WAS MADE THAT NUMBER OF SMALLER AIRPORTS MIGHT BETTER SERVE NATIONAL NEEDS. AS RESULT, DECISION HAS BEEN POSTPONED AND SCA ASKED TO MAKE FURTHER STUDY.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY HOPES TO DISCUSS STUDY, AND RESULT OF COPLACO PRESENTATION, NEXT WEEK WITH ONE OF PRIMARY AUTHORS OF STUDY, JUAN DE ANDRES OF SCA. IN VIEW OF PAST INTEREST OF U.S. AIRPORT CONSULTANTS (PARTICULARLY TIPPETTS-ABBETT-MCCARTHY-STRATTON AND PEAT, MARWICK, MITCHELL) IN THIS PROJECT WE ARE SENDING THIS REPORT TO BE SUPPLEMENTED AS OTHER INFORMATION IS DEVELOPED. EATON

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